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INNOVATION IN METALLURGICAL PRODUCTION IN RUMANIA

Summary: Nicolae Vasu, one of the best-known Stakhanovites in the RPR (Rumanian People's Republic) proposed methods for speeding metal processing and machinery production at the Matyas Rakosi Iron and Metallurgical Works in Bucharest. His suggestions received wide praise in the Rumanian press. In the following article he discusses the manner in which his suggestions were conceived and submitted. He called for greater efficiency, better supply, reorganization of machinery maintenance, and the application of Soviet methods to speed metallurgical production.

The Matyas Rakosi Iron and Metallurgical Works, formerly known as Tim-puri Noi, is one of the most important machine-building enterprises in the RPR. This plant produced the first Rumanian semidiesel, 25-horsepower engine on 1 May 1949, with the aid of large investments, new technical measures, and sub-contracts let to ten small enterprises. Workers and technicians encountered great difficulties from the very beginning because of the lack of proper tools and trained personnel. The first difficulty was overcome by the arrival from the USSR of dozens of lathes, fraying machines, and polishers. These tools permitted rapid and easy work, as well as great precision. To train personnel to operate these machines, the Soviet method of qualification at the place of work was used. In addition, a technical office was created. This office employed experienced specialists who disseminated technical publications among the workers. Studies and research were also carried on for the introduction of new products.

These measures, plus the introduction of Soviet methods, enabled the plant to begin mass production of the above-mentioned engines and of compressors in 1950. Technicians drew up the blueprints for and built a 50-horsepower semidiesel, 5-cubic-meter compressor, which develops 6 atmospheres, and achieved various improvements. In addition, they submitted numerous suggestions for rationalizations and innovations.

- 1 -

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of the motor and lathe sections, as well as by Stakhanovites, technicians, leading workers, and engineers of the shops and administration. At this meeting I mentioned that my proposals had the following chief objectives:

1. Even rate of production.
2. Prompt supply of raw materials, tools and semimanufactured goods to places of work.
3. Reorganization of the current system of maintenance of machines to cut dead time to a minimum.
4. Training of qualified workers.
5. Mobilization by ASIT (Scientific Association of Engineers and Technicians) of all engineers and technicians.

Lathe and motor workers such as Dicu C. Manea, Barbu Manea, Dicu C. Sachelarie, Dumitru Niclae, master Flonder (fnu), engineers, technicians, and the director pledged support. The management drew up a plan and schedule for changes. A commission was appointed to list materials produced by the motor and lathe sections and of the raw materials, tools, and semimanufactured goods for each month of the plan. The supply service was entrusted with the task of procuring the items necessary. The processing section drew up a monthly plan for each machine in the form of a graph. The graph was sent to the section and filled out by the master of the shop. The technical office studied steps in processing. The internal transportation section reorganized work to assure a prompt supply of material. Maintenance mechanics pledged to repair all machines in the shop. In addition, the technical service drew up a graph on the Soviet Voroshin model. This graph contained the names of workers and space for marking their daily production. Three to five men were designated to keep up the graph. The technical section posted notices explaining Soviet methods. Lectures were given by the technical cabinet on Soviet methods. Transparent models were set up.

Results were soon evident. The planned index of utilization of machines was fulfilled for the first time in April. The number of men working on the new method rose from 53 to 387, and included the processing section, lathes, forges, heat processing, and in part the tool and mechanical sections. The tool shop is still not well organized, however. It does not produce correctly adjusted tools. Screw stocks, threaders, measuring instruments, and calibrators are lacking.

Progress is further hampered by the lack of trained personnel. The management, the personnel and training service, engineers, masters, and instructors must make every effort to raise the number of trained workers.

Shortly after I proposed this innovation the Bucharest party committee organized an exchange of experiences at Matyas Rakosi. Workers from the 23 August Steel Plant, the Republica Steel Plant, and Dinamo Cotroceni Electrical Equipment Plant attended. On 16 April, Scantala organized a conference at which Gheorghe Stocin, first secretary of the Bucharest city committee, spoke. Subsequently my innovation spread throughout the country.

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- 3 -

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